

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7847

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FOR CUMSTOMS FOR GEN/INV

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, BR

SUBJECT: NEUTRALITY ACT VIOLATION

REF: MEXICO CITY 11280 NOTAL

1. REFTEL REQUESTED INFORMATION ON REPORTED SEIZURE OF
CONTRABAND SHIPMENT OF ARMS BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES.

2. BY DIPLOMATIC NOTED DATE AUGUST 13, 1976, BRAZILIAN EMBASSY
IN WASHINGTON INFORMED DEPARTMENT OF SEIZURE IN RECIFE AND RIO
DE JANEIRO OF CONTRABAND SHIPMENTS ABOARD BRAZILIAN FLAG VESSELS
N.M. AMALIA AND N.M. ZEUS, RESPECTIVELY, WHICH DEPARTED NEW
YORK ON MAY 8 AND MAY 17. BOTH SHIPS OWNED BY BRAZILIAN FIRM
NETUMAR, WHICH ACCORDING TO BRAZILIAN EMBASSY, OFFERED FULL
COOPERATION IN SEIZURES. INCLUDED IN CONTRABAND WERE LARGE
QUANTITIES OF 9MM AND .45 CALIBRE AMMUNITION, AS WELL AS OTHER
ITEMS. SHIPMENTS WERE MADE IN "HOUSE TO HOUSE" CONTAINERS,
HANDLED BY ANTONIO PINHEIRO PIRES AND CONSIGNED TO L. TOBAL,
A FICTITIOUS FIRM IN BRAZIL. BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE
SHIPMENTS ARE PROBABLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FOLLOWING:

A) ANTONIO PINHEIRO PIRES, TONY'S MANHATTAN IMPORT-EXPORT,
117 WEST 46TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y.

B) LEO BALA, AMBRASCO INTERNATIONAL EXPORT CO., NEW YORK,
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N.Y.

C) ANDRE PAPADAN, NEW YORK, N.Y.

D) PERSONS KNOWN AS LEA, IKE, AND JAIME OF THE BOUTIQUE
BRASILIA, NEW YORK, N.Y., THE LAST NAMED BELIEVED AKA CHAIN
FELZENSZWALBE.

3. BRAZILIAN EMBASSY NOTE IS CONSISTENT WITH PRESS REPORTS
BASED ON FEDERAL POLICE COMMUNIQUE AT TIME OF SEIZURES.
ACCORDING TO REPORTS, CONTRABAND SHIPMENTS CONSISTED PRIMARILY
OF LIQUOR, WITH CIGARETTES, MACHINE PARTS, CUMMINS AND CATER-
PILLER MOTORS, AND SOUND EQUIPMENT AMONG SECNDARY ITEMS. GOODS
WERE CONSIGNED TO FIRM L. TOBAL IN RIO, AS REPRESENTED BY
GERARDO PINEIRO PIRES. LATTER OBTAINED BRAZILIAN IMPORT LICENSES
TO BRING IN LEGAL MERCHANDISE, THEN PREPARED PHONY ORDERS FOR
THESE GOODS TO "TONY'S EXPORT-IMPORT" IN NEW YORK TO COVER CLEARANCE
THROUGH CUSTOMS OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CONTAINERS SHIPPED BY NEW YORK
FIRM. TONY'S IS OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY GERARDO'S BROTHER,
ANTONIO PINHEIRO PIRES. IN PLACE OF GOODS LISTED IN ORDERS,
ANTONIO PIRES LOADED CONTAINERS WITH CONTRABAND, BOTH FROM HIS
OWN FIRM AND, IT IS BELIEVED, FROM ABRASCO INTERNATIONAL EXPORT
CO., OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY LEO BALA. TRUE CONTENTS WERE
BASED ON ORDERS PASSED FROM GERARDO TO HIS BROTHER BY MEANS
OF LETTERS OR PHONE CALLS.

4. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS MAKE NO MENTION OF CONTRBAND WEAPONS.
HOWEVER, EMBASSY CONTACTED FEDERAL POLICE IN MATTER, WHO
CONFIIRMED SEIZURE ABOARD SHIP AMALIA IN RECIFE OF ALL WEAPONS
LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL, WITH EXCEPTION OF .45
CALIBER RIFLE, SERIAL NUMBER 25571, AND OF .45 CALIBER RIFLE,
SERIAL NUMBER 25842 (POLICE GAVE SERIAL NUMBER AS 25482).
CRIMMINS

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